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Message Text

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20
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 OMB-01 /081 W
---------- 117489
R 031850Z OCT 75
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5172
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 14164

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, IS, XF, LE
SUBJ: SOVIET COMMENTARY RESTORES WHITE HAT TO ARAFAT

REF: MOSCOW 13189

1. SUMMARY. AS WE NOTED IN REFTEL IN MID-SEPTEMBER, THE SOVIET PRESS HAS BEEN UNUSUALLY SILENT FOR SOME TIME ON ARAFAT, HIS ACTIVITIES, AND HIS POSITION IN THE PALESTINIAN LIBERATION MOVEMENT. FAVORABLE MENTION OF HIM IN AN OCTOBER 3 PRAVDA COMMENTARY, IN WHICH HE IS SPECIFICALLY REFERRED TO AS THE "LEADER" OF THE MOVEMENT, MAY INDICATE THAT HIS STOCK IS AGAIN ON THE RISE WITH THE SOVIETS. END SUMMARY.

2. THE COMMENTARY IS DEVOTED TO THE SITUATION IN LEBANON,
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AND IS THE FIRST MAJOR PIECE ON THAT TROUBLED COUNTRY IN

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RECENT WEEKS. THE AUTHOR (P. DEMCHENKO) EXPLAINS, INTER ALIA, THAT SECULAR, "PROGRESSIVE" POLITICAL FORCES ARE PLAYING AN INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT ROLE IN LEBANON. HE CONTENDS THAT THESE FORCES HAVE BEEN ABLE TO THWART THE PLANS OF BOURGEOIS CIRCLES, INCLUDING THE KATAIB PARTY (PHONETIC), TO EXPEL "PALESTINIAN LIBERATION ORGANIZATIONS" FROM LEBANON. HE CONTINUES THAT "PROGRESSIVE" PARTIES AND OTHER RIGHT-THINKING ORGANIZATION HAVE DONE MUCH TOWARD NORMALIZATION OF THE SITUATION, AND THAT IN THIS EFFORT THE PALESTINIANS HAVE PLAYED A POSITIVE ROLE. FURTHERMORE, HE WRITES, "THEIR LEADER (RUKOVODITEL'), YA. ARAFAT, ACTIVELY COOPERATED WITH THE AUTHORITIES, EVEN SERVED AS A MEDIATOR IN EFFORTS TO STOP THE CONFLICTS..."

3. DEMCHENKO CONCLUDES THAT EVENTS "HAVE ONCE AGAIN SHOWN THE EFFICACY OF JOINT EFFORTS BY VARIOUS GROUPS OF THE NATIONAL PATRIOTIC FORCES OF LEBANON AND THE PALESTINIAN LIBERATION MOVEMENT," AND GIVES THESE EFFORTS A LARGE PORTION OF THE CREDIT FOR AVOIDING DEVELOPMENTS WHICH COULD HAVE PROVIDED EXCUSES FOR INTERFERENCE IN LEBANESE INTERNAL AFFAIRS BY "OTHER GOVERNMENTS, PARTICULARLY ISRAEL." SUCH PLANS, HE WARNS IN A PARTING SHOT, WERE AIMED AT PARTITION OF THE COUNTRY.
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